

## Minutes of the Scottish Cyclocross Association Annual General Meeting on 12th March 2023, 7:00pm. Held via Zoom.

### 1. Present

**Chair:** Howard Perkins

**Treasurer:** Andy Strathdee

**Secretary:** Graeme Warren

**Committee Members:** James Melville, Colin Chisholm, Paul Davies, Keith Stocker, Kirsty Ellis.

**Attendees:** Aaron Johnson, Andrew Campbell, Alan Anderson, Andy Martin, Barry McCleery, Chris White, Christopher Johnson, Clive Sharman, Craig Duncan, Dave Hogg, Euan McConnell, Fiona Walker, Fraser Johnston, Graham Brown, Hannah Kemlo, Hannah James, Ian Hepburn, James Robertson, Jim Brewer, Jim Cameron, Jim Foulis, John Newton, Keith Stocker, Lesley-Anne Robertson, Nadine Reilly, Neil Scott, Paul Zarb, Tarn Fynn, Tom Blair

NOTE: Some attendees may have temporarily joined the meeting and not been in the list captured above.

### 2. Apologies

Davie Graham, Ian Clunie, Jammie Johnstone, Pete Bentley, Martin Harris (Timing Operator), Pete Matthews (Scottish Cycling), Sam Long

### 3. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous AGM were approved without amendment. Proposed by Graeme Warren and seconded by Howard Perkins.

### 4. Chair's Report

Howard Perkins gave the following Chair's report:-

*It's been a good year for Scottish Cyclocross and Scottish riders on the British Stage: a few highlights include Ishbel Strathdee winning U23F and being on the overall female podium at the Three Peaks, Davie Lines and Gary MacDonald were on the podium at the Masters World Champs and there were many podium places at the British Champs, including 3 Champions, Gus Lawson (U14), Innes McDonald (U16) and of course Cameron Mason. And thanks to the amazing work of Fraser Johnston and his team, Scotland will host next year's British Champs at Falkirk.*

*Those of you who were at the AGM last year will have heard me say that after the pandemic, our goal was simply to have an SCX Series with ranking points. It's hard to remember just how uncertain that was at the time. I am glad to say that we achieved our goal and for the first time in a number of years, we were able to hand out Series trophies at the end of the season.*

*Many people think that the Association is just about organising the SCX Series, and it does indeed take up a large part of our focus. We coordinate the calendar, negotiate the timing contract, support the organisers, layout a race day framework for a consistent race day experience and at the end award the Trophies. The Association doesn't actually organise any races (although many of our committee members do) - it is the Clubs and individual organisers who put the races on and do all the hard work. And it is hard work. Full respect to any organiser/club who puts on one race, let alone several in a season.*

*Scottish Cycling don't organise any cyclocross races either, but they are the governing body, accredit the commissaires and award the Scottish Championships. In theory, Scottish Cycling could do everything the Association does - but the reality is that like most Governing bodies, resources are finite and spread thinly.*

*The SCX constitution states that the purpose of the Association is to "promote all aspects of Cyclocross within Scotland". So when Scottish Cycling embarked on their new Events Strategy, we responded to the consultation to ensure Cyclocross was fully included. And we are keeping in close contact to understand how their plans develop.*

*We see the role of the association as filling gaps where things aren't being done, and to do so through collaboration. For example, there will be a lot of chat tonight about the Super Quaich. This came into existence completely independently of the Association when a group of organisers wanted to put something*

together that was a bit different. And the clear intention is that it should remain a distinct entity that is not "controlled" by the Association. But that does not mean that Super Quaich and other stand-alone races are not supported by the Association, through sharing of our expertise, contacts, materials and promotion on our website's race calendar. But everyone shares the same aim of having a well balanced season overall with good participation for all races. And it's hard to see how we could achieve that without talking about it all together, which is why Christopher Johnson will set out plans for the SQ later on.

### Treasurer's Report

A summary of the Profit and Loss account and summary of the bank balance was given. A small loss was made in 2022-23 season (after investment in a new trophy, engraving, and general costs for timing contract etc.) giving a bank balance of around £7,000 at year end. The summary of the P&L account is given below (NB: this version is slightly different from that shown at the AGM, with a minor adjustment made to 2023 when the final race levy form was received post-AGM).

SCX Profit and Loss						
Year to 31 March	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	
P&L						
Income						
Levies received	8948.5	0	364.23	£9,910.50		
Sales	0	0				
Donations	0	0		500		
Interest	5.65	4.88	4.41	25.76		
Other		200				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8954.15</b>	<b>204.88</b>	<b>368.64</b>	<b>£10,436.26</b>		<b>0</b>
Costs						
Timing payments	2800	0		2850		
SC levies	6736.86	0		£7,125.72		
Annual affiliation	0	0	50	26		74
Rd 8 Raffle				100		
Stakes	144.95					
Engraving	10			371.8		
Website/email	74.79	159.78	196.89	179.85		144
AGM	0	0				
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>9766.6</b>	<b>159.78</b>	<b>246.89</b>	<b>10653.37</b>		<b>218</b>
<b>Profit (loss)</b>	<b>-812.45</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>121.75</b>	<b>-£217.11</b>		<b>-218</b>
Timing adjustments		-1409.47	-159.78	£6,916.22		218
Closing cash	8569.39	7205.02	7,166.99	13,866.10		13,866.10

## 5. Election of New Committee

Thanks were given to the members of the committee who aren't standing for re-election. Katie Turbitt was our media officer, but unfortunately work/life pressure meant that she had to step back from SCX. Ian Clunie joined last year to take on the newly created "Stakemaster" role. Ian too found that pressure of work prevented him from attending many of the committee meetings and he didn't manage to race this season either. Howard noted that he believes strongly that actually riding your bike comes before talking about riding your bike and indicated that we are very grateful for the contribution that both Ian and Katie made while they were on the committee. The final committee member who is not standing again is Davie Graham. Davie was one of the original founders of the Association, and his contribution to Cyclocross in Scotland is immeasurable. The Association thanked him for his contribution.

In line with the constitution, nominations to the committee closed a week prior to the AGM. There was only one nomination for each of the office bearers. Except as noted above (Davie Graham, Ian Clunie and Katie Turbitt), all other current committee were standing for re-election and there were three additional nominations to join the committee. The total nominations were within the numbers allowed by the constitution and as a result, there was no requirement to hold a vote. The election of the new committee was therefore as follows:-

Name	Committee Position	Proposed by	Seconded by
Howard Perkins*	Chairperson	Howard Perkins	Graeme Warren
Andrew Strathdee*	Treasurer	Andrew Strathdee	Howard Perkins
Graeme Warren*	Secretary	Graeme Warren	Colin Chisholm
Colin Chisholm*	Ordinary Committee Member	Colin Chisholm	Graeme Warren
Paul Davies*	Ordinary Committee Member	Paul Davies	Graeme Warren
Kirsty Ellis*	Ordinary Committee Member	Kirsty Ellis	Graeme Warren
Edward Lindsay	Ordinary Committee Member / Youth Representative	Edward Lindsay	Keith Stocker
James Melville*	Ordinary Committee Member	James Melville	Graeme Warren
Nadine Reilly	Ordinary Committee Member	Chris White / Nadine Reilly	Keith Stocker
Keith Stocker*	Ordinary Committee Member	Keith Stocker	Graeme Warren
Hope Thomson	Ordinary Committee Member / Youth Representative	Hope Thomson	Keith Stocker

\* Existing denotes existing committee member standing for re-election

The role of Honorary President is a non-elected post, appointed by the Committee as appropriate.

## 6. Scottish Cycling Events Strategy

An update was given by Tarn Fynn of Scottish Cycling:-

- SC is focussed on implementing a new events strategy through to 2027. The aim is the development and co-ordination of events to grow inclusive racing opportunities across Scotland for everyone to achieve their best.
- Key principles:
  - o Connecting and growing the cycling community;
  - o Developing and empowering workforce and volunteers;
  - o Make everyone welcome on the start line;

- Make sure that there are stepping stones through the sport to allow people to reach their potential.
- Scottish Cycling is seeking to deliver for new and under-represented community groups and places (in all disciplines, including cyclocross). Scottish Cycling will focus on supporting events where all categories are provided for over the race day/weekend.
- SC is keen to support organisers and commissaires and help to spread the load among a wider pool of volunteers.
- Any queries can be sent to [events@scottishcycling.org.uk](mailto:events@scottishcycling.org.uk)

## 7. Review of 2022 Season

An analysis of the 2022 series participation numbers was presented by Howard. The document presented is available as a separate file alongside the minutes. The key points noted were:

- 851 different riders (including U12)
- The Veteran categories have the highest number of participants
- Very few people race more than four races
- Gender split is generally similar across age categories (75%/25% M:F)
- Noted that the percentage of female racers actually decreased in 2022-23 season (vs 21-22) but this is not statistically significant. It does however show that there was not a significant change in the number of female racers following the creation of a specific female race.

The results of a survey sent to Youth and Junior riders was presented by Keith Stocker. The key points noted were:-

- 33 responses were given
- There were no real standout (good or bad views) on series events.
- Brechin, Camperdown and Muir of Ord were highlighted as the most popular races in comments
- Feedback generally focussed on the course as the main factor driving the popularity of the event.
- Suggestions for improvements for youth racing focussed on:-
  - Separate race categories for U12 riders
  - More technical / challenging courses
  - Girls only course practice
  - Changing schedule to give a later start for kids
  - More early season races and more race opportunities generally

## 8. Presentation on the 2023/24 Season Calendar and Series Survey Results

The draft framework for the SCX 2022-23 calendar was presented as a basis for discussion. There were two key options:-

- All series races and Scottish Champs prior to Christmas OR one or more series races after Christmas (and the Champs in January too).
- Various pros and cons were discussed:-
  - Having the Champs in January would leave a gap with few races in December (so riders would lose fitness and momentum)
  - There are challenges with holding the Champs in the weeks prior to Christmas (due to lack of light)

Results from a recent online poll were also presented, as shown in the accompanying Scottish Cyclocross Calendar Survey Results file.

Results from a survey carried out online (as suggested by Super Quaich race organiser Christopher Johnson) were presented. The key points noted are as follows:-

- Most riders race a lot more than just SCX Series races (71.2% of respondents have also raced Super Quaich, and 49.2% have raced other UK or International races).

- There was a suggestion that Super Quaich has “lost its way” as the race has moved away from the original A/B race (with organisers determining ranking, and promotion / demotion based on race position). In response to the poll, there was an even split (48.5% / 51.5%) of those who liked the mixed A and B fields vs a possible “time based” format.
- There was also a very even split on whether there should or should not be a separate Female race.

## 9. Discussion on Key Topics

Having presented options for the series timetable, and the above survey for discussion, the AGM then turned to a round table discussion on these points.

- Euan McConnell noted that Galloway Hillbillies are offering to run an event on the third Sunday in January 2024
- Tarn Fynn: Rankings of clubs in a club series could help to drive underrepresented groups
- Alan (Ayr Burners) agreed with the concept of a club competition, expressed his opinion that racing after Christmas would restrict some venues, and queried if we have data on where in the country entrants come from.
- Craig Duncan of West Lothian Clarion: There is an opportunity for different clubs to share event organisation, with one club running junior events for example.
- Andy Martin: “If it works, don’t break it”. Not keen on an Oct-Feb series: big gaps between races can lead to a loss of fitness. It is also difficult to avoid illness over a long season and there is a higher risk of cancelling races due to storms in January.
- Clive Sharman: some venues are restricted in winter (often after October), e.g. Brechin would be very muddy later in winter.
- Lesley-Anne – a lot of races in a short period of time can be expensive so it is good to spread racing out to an extent (particularly where race weekends are two day weekends with an overnight stay for some competitors).
- Fiona Walker raised a discussion on the merits of the separate female races in Super Quaich, noting that whilst some female racers would enjoy racing in a mixed field, for some women, particularly those lower down the field, feedback seemed to suggest that they would prefer a separate race so that they were not being lapped and could have a better race amongst themselves.
- Hannah – Her personal feedback was that she enjoyed racing in mixed fields at Superquaich, which was a nice change from other races.
- Dave Hogg – Queried whether allowing women to race an “open” Super Quaich A/B race would lead to lower numbers in the separate female race. Christopher Johnson confirmed that this option was available in 2022-23, but that no female riders took up the option.
- Chris White – noted that mixed races work well in XC and that mixed racing did give extra interest in the “old style” Super Quaich.
- Tarn Fynn – noted the challenges of trying to please a wide range of new and high level riders, and queried whether some riders would be better catered for elsewhere, rather than both the series and the Super Quaich trying to cater for all riders.
- Christopher Johnson responded to the above by noting that with a relatively small pool of riders, it is essential for races to try to cater for as wide a pool as possible.
- Alan – felt that given the low number of racers who go to places like Torbay or to the WC in Dublin, we should not be concerned about avoiding these events.

Colin Chisholm discussed the current race day timetable, which was put in place to create a standard format for SCX series events.

- The previous calendar had challenges with trying to fit Female racing into the race day timetable, and there could be difficulties with lack of daylight at some events. The timetable is always set so that racing is “safe and fair” and the discussion on the timetable between the association and organisers always has this at the forefront.
- Noted that Irvine trialled U12 races in the middle of the day, but that the rest of the series races followed a relatively standard timetable.
- Setting up SCX events with a consistent race timetable and race categories allows events to be “Grade B” or better, which in turn allows riders to accrue BC ranking points (help riders to be

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gridded appropriately at National Trophy races). This is a good reason to try to follow a set standard and the set BC categories where possible.

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Discussion on the race day timetable:

- Chris White: looking at U12 races at the same time as the Senior races (where the venue is large enough to accommodate both running simultaneously) gives options for a shorter race day timetable (so less issue with daylight) and might encourage more competitors as the start time could be later and therefore overnight stays potentially also avoided for remote rounds.
- Colin Shearer (note read out in his absence): there can be an issue with lack of course time for practice, which can be a safety issue. It is important that the race day timetable allows for appropriate course practice, with riders potentially able to sign on and participate in any of the practice sessions.
- Andy Martin – people treating the course practice as a warmup can give issues: people should be encouraged to walk the course and warm up off course.

### **10. Polls on Key Topics**

The following polls were presented to gather feedback following the above discussion: -

Polls

[← Back](#)

### SCX AGM Post discussion Poll (v2)

Poll ended | 4 questions | 25 of 29 (86%) participated

1. When should the SCX Series finish? (Single Choice) \*

25/25 (100%) answered

Before Christmas?	(14/25) 56%
Before the end of February?	(11/25) 44%
Not really interested in completing a full series	(0/25) 0%

2. When should the Scottish Champs be held? (Single Choice) \*

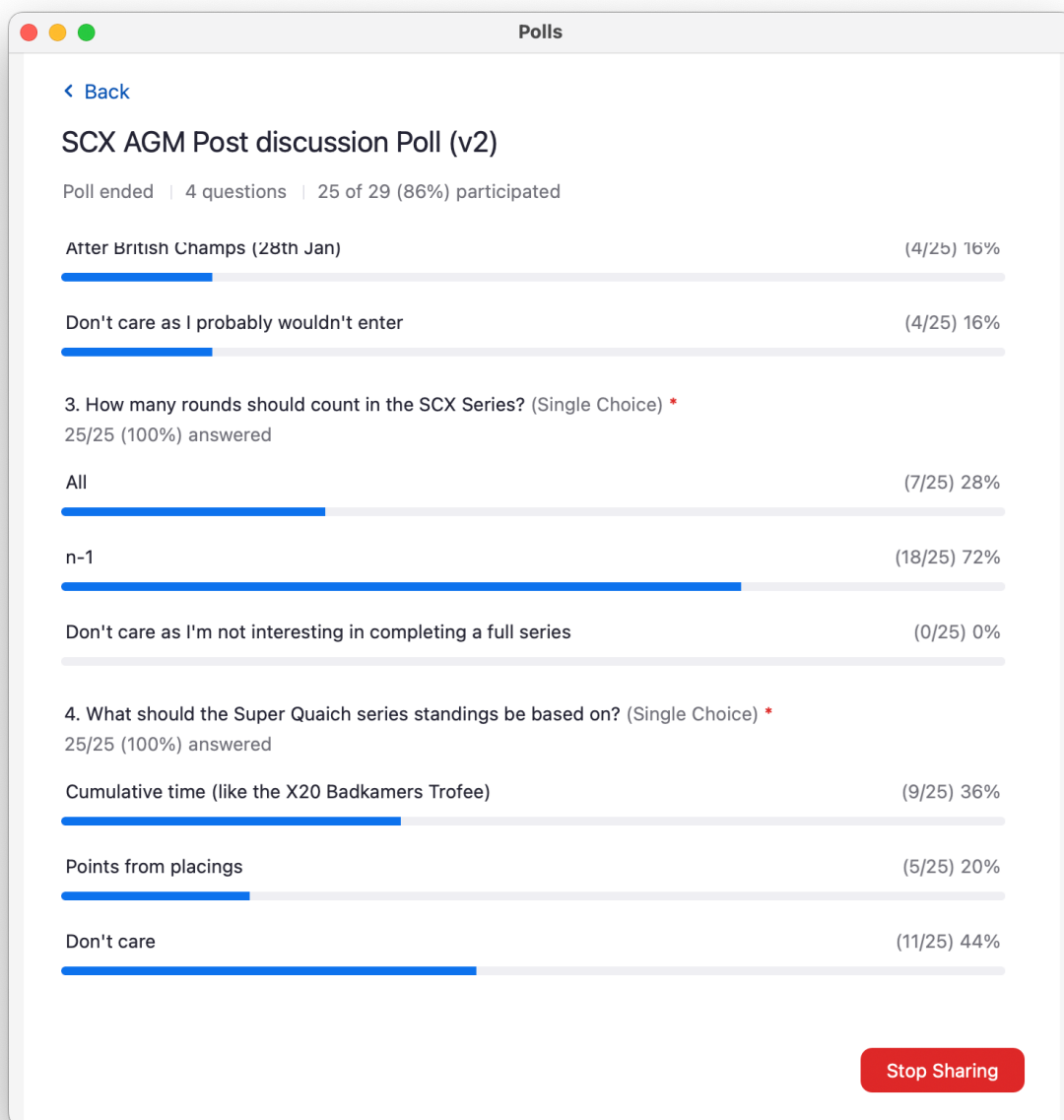
25/25 (100%) answered

Last weekend in November (26th - same as the English Regional Champs)	(14/25) 56%
Weekend before Christmas (17th Dec)	(3/25) 12%
After British Champs (28th Jan)	(4/25) 16%
Don't care as I probably wouldn't enter	(4/25) 16%

3. How many rounds should count in the SCX Series? (Single Choice) \*

25/25 (100%) answered

[Stop Sharing](#)



**11. Social Media and CX Hubz App**

Information on the CX Hubz app was presented by Howard. Gareth Richards has pulled together an app for disseminating information on cyclocross leagues which is already being used by a number of other series, including the West Midlands and the Welsh Leagues.

Comments were invited from potential users of the app. It was noted that the Association would make a decision on whether to use the app more actively (uploading content etc.) and that this could impact series and non-series race organisers.

**12. BC Cyclocross Commission Representation**

Keith Stocker gave information on the British Cycling Cyclocross Commission which he has been involved in since 2019. With Keith stepping down he presented information on the commission so that others could



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consider if they wished to be involved. This would involve a number of meetings (in person or remotely) and discussion on the future of the sport, format of the National Trophy and Championships, discussing feedback from leagues and series etc. Any interested parties were invited to discuss with Keith.

### **13. AOCB**

No matters were raised.

### **14. Closing Remarks**

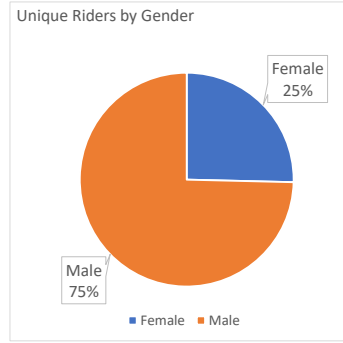
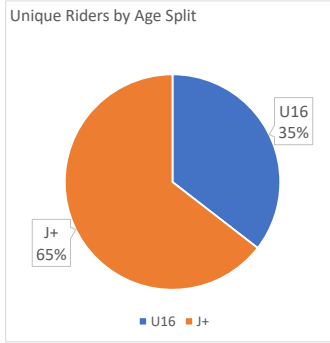
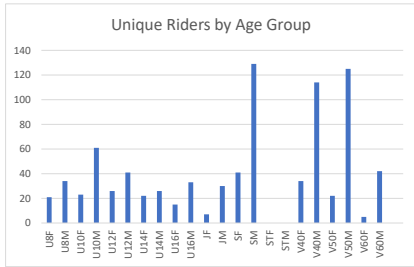
Normally, Jammy, as the Honorary President would make the closing remarks, but wasn't able to attend. Howard thanked everyone for attending and for sharing their views. We look forward to progressing these discussions and to seeing everyone at the start of the season later in 2023.

# Season Summary Analysis

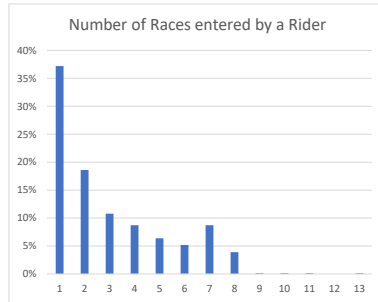
## Analysis of 2022/23 SCX Series (8 rounds including Scottish Champs)

### Individual Riders by Age group

TOTAL	U8F	U8M	U10F	U10M	U12F	U12M	U14F	U14M	U16F	U16M	JF	JM	SF	SM	STF	STM	V40F	V40M	V50F	V50M	V60F	V60M	
851	21	34	23	61	26	41	22	26	15	33	7	30	41	129	0	0	34	114	22	125	5	42	
<b>U16</b>	302																						
<b>J+</b>	549																						
			<b>Female</b>	216																			
			<b>Male</b>	635																			



No. Races	Race Entries		Race Finishes	
	No. Riders	% Riders	No. Riders	% Riders
1	317	37%	286	37%
2	144	17%	143	19%
3	96	11%	83	11%
4	76	9%	67	9%
5	60	7%	49	6%
6	44	5%	40	5%
7	68	8%	67	9%
8	42	5%	30	4%
9	1	0%	1	0%
10	1	0%	1	0%
11	1	0%	1	0%
12	0	0%	0	0%
13	1	0%	1	0%
<b>Active Riders</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>100%</b>



### Riders who entered 4 or more races - by Age group

TOTAL	U8F	U8M	U10F	U10M	U12F	U12M	U14F	U14M	U16F	U16M	JF	JM	SF	SM	STF	STM	V40F	V40M	V50F	V50M	V60F	V60M	
294	2	3	7	12	8	14	11	14	6	16	4	12	10	37	0	0	10	42	9	56	3	18	
<b>U16</b>	93	32%																					
<b>J+</b>	201	68%	<b>Female</b>	70	24%																		
			<b>Male</b>	224	76%																		

### Event Participation by Age Group

Date	Venue	TOTAL	U8F	U8M	U10F	U10M	U12F	U12M	U14F	U14M	U16F	U16M	JF	JM	SF	SM	STF	STM	V40F	V40M	V50F	V50M	V60F	V60M
18-Sep-22	SCX1 Muir of Ord	208	1	5	4	10	3	6	6	11	2	9	3	10	11	32	0	0	8	33	6	29	2	17
02-Oct-22	SCX2 Lochore	380	0	0	9	16	8	18	13	17	9	18	4	15	17	62	0	0	11	58	14	68	3	20
16-Oct-22	SCX3 Brechin	327	6	4	4	12	10	13	9	12	9	12	5	11	14	49	0	0	13	50	11	61	3	19
06-Nov-22	SCX4 Irvine	394	10	8	10	18	11	19	11	18	6	19	3	14	13	53	0	0	17	54	10	74	2	24
13-Nov-23	SCX5 Dundee	428	0	0	11	28	14	21	15	20	12	24	4	21	17	65	0	0	19	51	9	71	4	22
20-Nov-22	SCX6 Castle Douglas	269	7	9	4	14	3	8	9	6	3	13	4	9	14	40	0	0	11	35	9	52	3	16
27-Nov-22	SCX7 Kinnell	380	11	23	12	28	13	16	11	11	4	18	3	11	14	52	0	0	10	52	10	58	2	21
11-Dec-22	SCX8 Dunfermline	230	0	0	7	14	6	10	8	11	5	12	2	10	5	37	0	0	8	31	7	38	2	17
			<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>156</b>

### Key Takeaways SCX Series Only 2022-23

- 8 Races (All with separate Women's race)
- 851 People entered races
  - > 75%/25% Male/Female split
  - > 65%/35% Junior+/Under 16 split
  - > 37% of riders only entered 1 race
- Only 294 (35%) riders entered 4 or more races
- For this "core group of riders", the breakdown is
  - > 76%/24% Male/Female Split
  - > 68%/32% Junior+/Under 16 split
- a very similar breakdown.

### Key Takeaways 2021-22

- 11 Races (No Series)
- 860 People entered races
  - > 72%/28% Male/Female split
  - > 67%/33% Junior+/Under 16 split
  - > 41% of riders only entered 1 race
- Only 180 (21%) riders entered 4 or more races
- For this "core group of riders", the breakdown is
  - > 77%/23% Male/Female Split
  - > 74%/26% Junior+/Under 16 split
- in other words shift to older male riders.

# The Scottish Cyclocross Calendar Survey Results


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With 132 participants



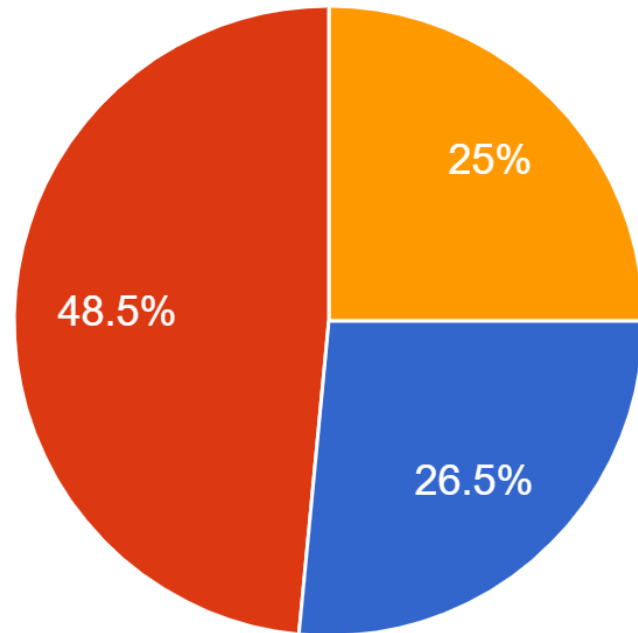
## Proposed motion

*That the Scottish Cyclocross Calendar be promoted as a five month season, from start October to end February, and that the SCX Series events, and championships, are spaced out across this duration to allow for alternative and non-series events to be promoted simultaneously*



Recently, both the SCX Series and the Scottish Champs have been completed before Xmas with the Super Quaich being held in the New Year. There are...ectively. Would you prefer the SCX season be:

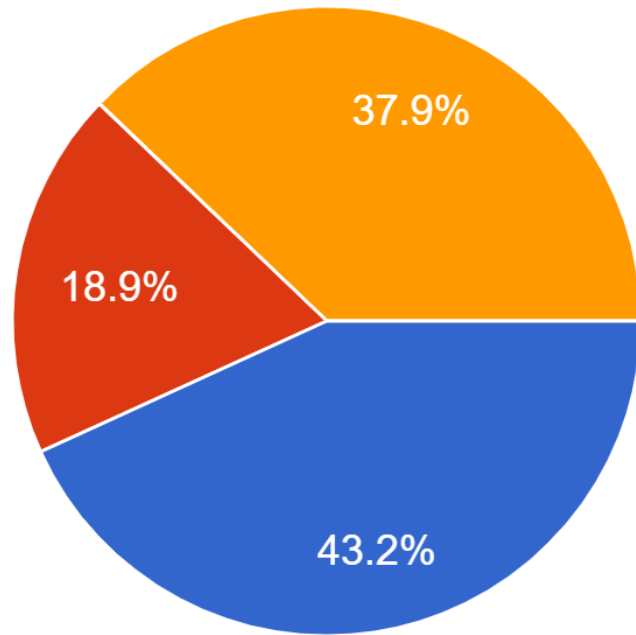
132 responses



- Finished by Christmas
- Would race until the end of February
- Finished before the World Champs (3rd/4th Feb 24)

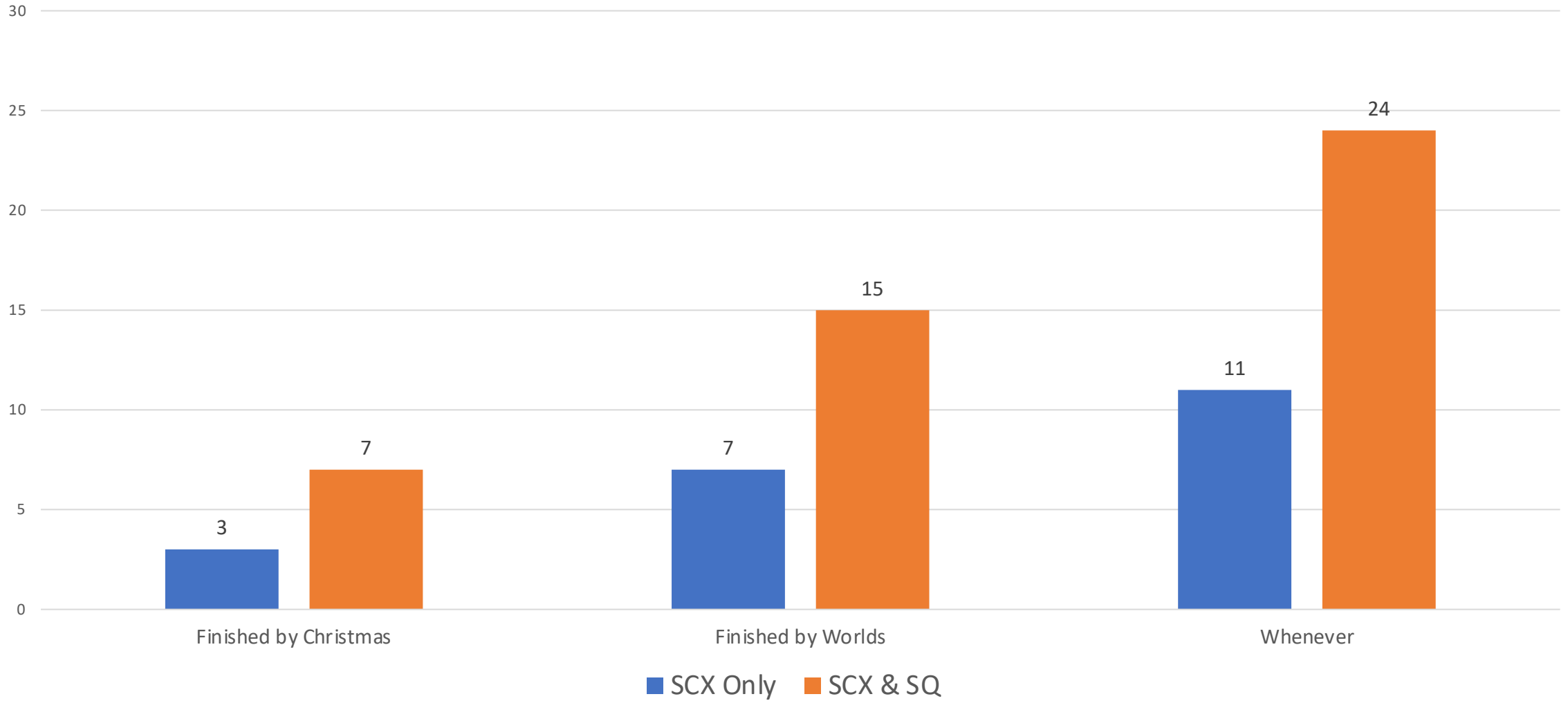
# Would you prefer for the Scottish Championships to be

132 responses



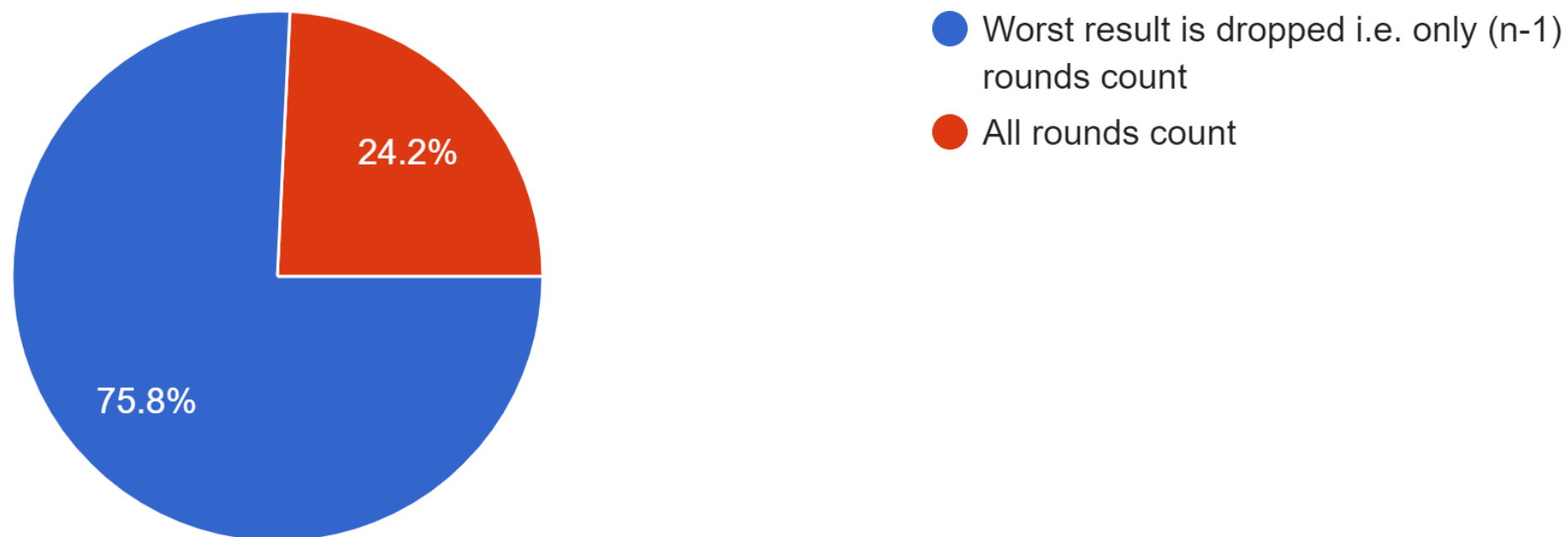
- Whenever
- At the end of the SCX Series as long as it was before Xmas
- At the end of the SCX Series as long as it was before the World Champs

# Season Duration



The intention of the SCX Series is that it is a Scotland wide series and isn't just restricted to venues in the central belt. To support the organisers who p...s should count towards the final series standings:

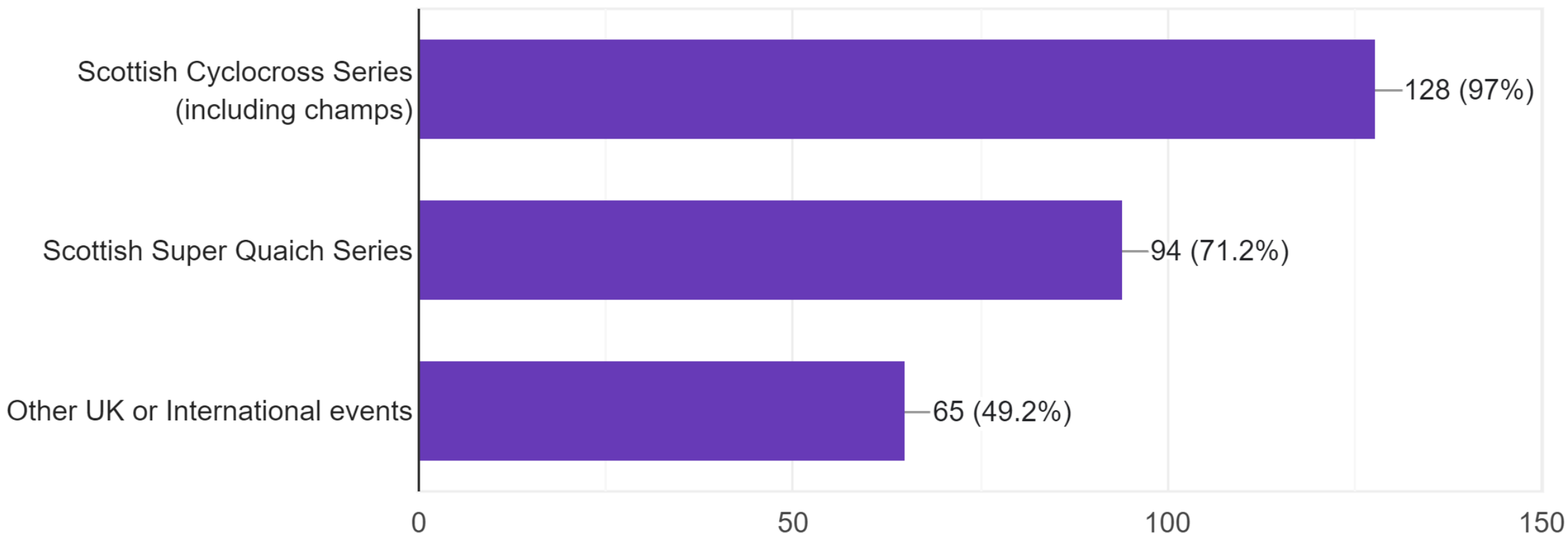
132 responses





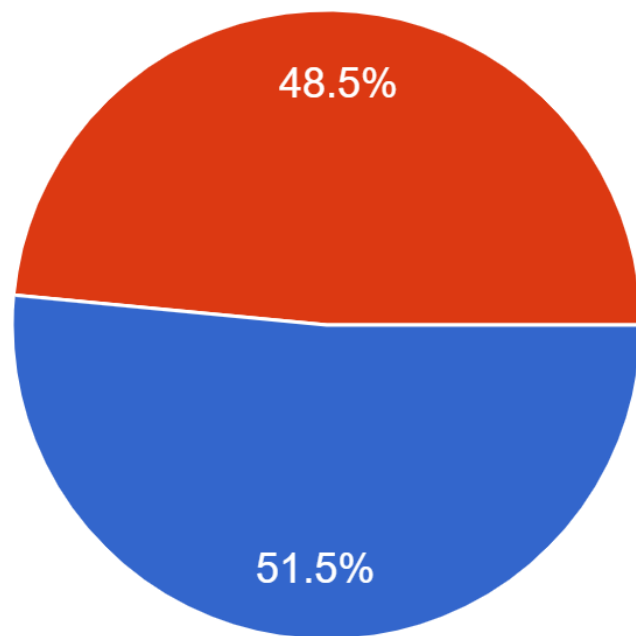
# Have you previously raced cyclocross? Please tick all that apply

132 responses



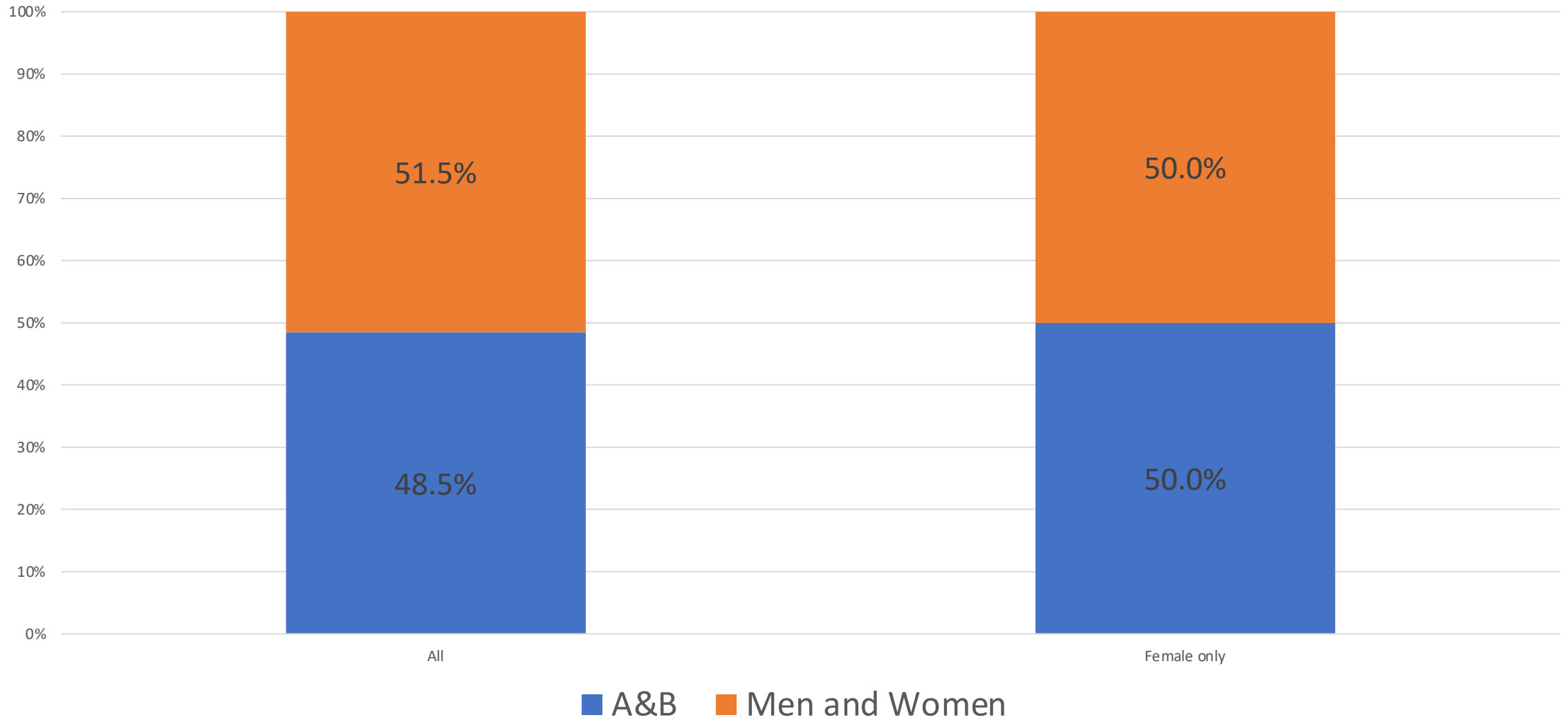
## Which option, as described above, would you prefer for the Super Quaich?

132 responses



- Option A - Time based racing for men and women
- Option B - Super Quaich races with mixed 'A' and 'B' fields

# SQ Format




## Feedback (sample)

- *Have the women's event between the two men's events*
- *It would be good to have Saturday racing*
- *Prefer to choose A or B...*
- *Super Quaich is pointless – no categories mean it is a money making venture*
- *Don't make BC membership compulsory*
- *Limit riders to one race (prevent them racing A & B)*
- *More racing outside central belt*



The solution?



*“I think the ideal solution which would easier answer the two options offered is recruiting more women to make their field on a par with a men's race”*